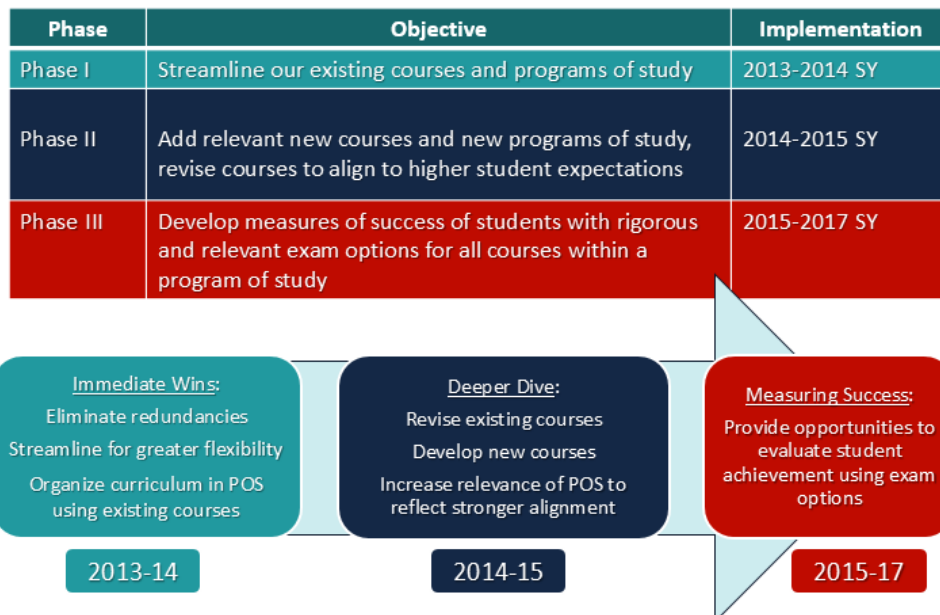


Career and Technical Education Exams

Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Tennessee embarked on a journey, beginning in 2013-14, to evaluate the courses and programs of study it promoted. The goal of this journey was to ensure that students had viable, vertically aligned pathways to be able to seamlessly transition into postsecondary education and the workforce. To accomplish this, the office of CTE approached this work in three phases. Phases I and II are complete, and Phase III is ready to launch into its pilot year in 2017-18.



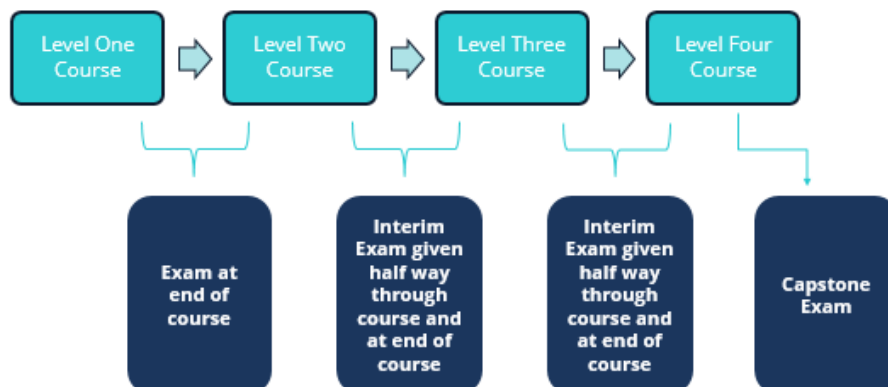
Tennessee has received national recognition for the quality of its courses and programs of study. We remain proud of the work we have accomplished alongside our teachers, industry, and postsecondary partners. However, to truly ascertain whether or not we are meeting our goal, we need to be able to determine if our students are mastering content. The way in which we will be able to determine this will be by creating authentic exam options for CTE courses within a program of study.

Tennessee is approaching this work holistically. CTE exams will measure a student's progress through a program of study, utilizing exams in each course to demonstrate mastery not only in course content, but progress through the program of study as well.

CTE exams will present opportunities for districts to:

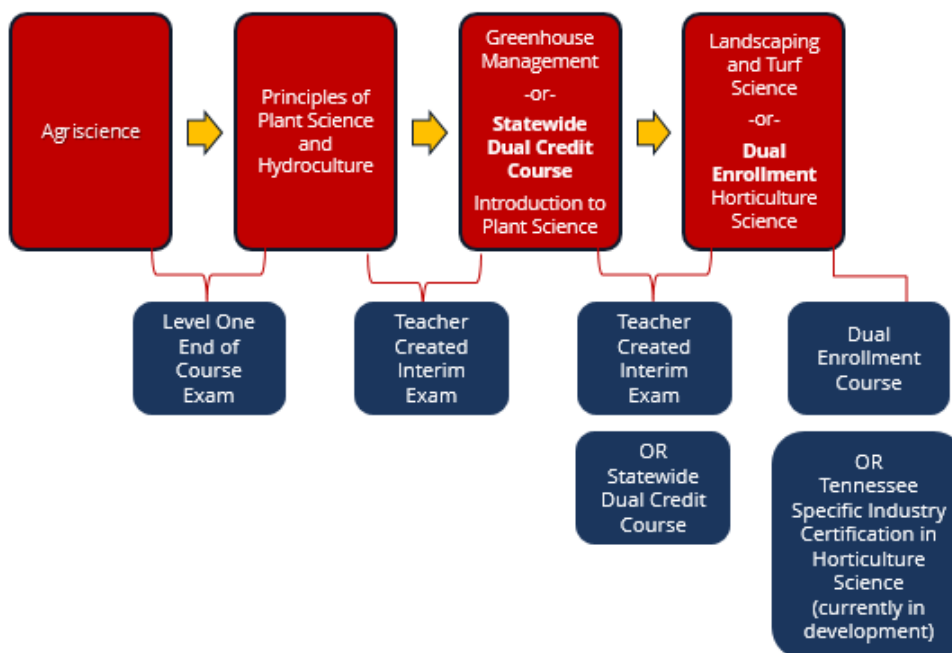
- effectively measure and reward student learning;
- effectively measure and give productive feedback to improve teaching;
- effectively measure a student's progress through a program of study; and
- identify and share best practices and lessons learned across the state.

The first programs of study for which we are developing exams are **Horticulture Science** and **Mechatronics**. The sequence of exams will be as follows for the programs of study.

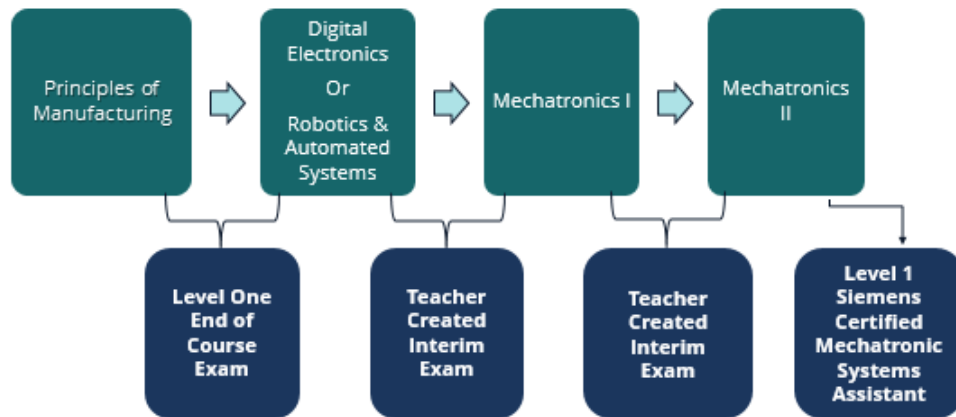


Level one exams will resemble an end-of-course exam in that they will be summative of the course and should be given at the end of the course. Level two and three exams are interim exams, which will be administered halfway through a course and at the end of the course. We are calling these interim, because they are being given halfway through a program of study as well as twice within the course. Capstone exams can be administered at level four. The capstone exam is the assessment of the student's knowledge throughout the entirety of the program of study. These can look different, whether they consist of a portfolio, capstone WBL experience, industry certification, or early postsecondary opportunity. They will be specific to the needed skills required to transition seamlessly into postsecondary and the workforce in the related program.

Example sequence of exams for Horticulture Science:



Example sequence of exams for Mechatronics:



The department is currently inviting Horticulture Science and Mechatronics teachers who have taught these programs of study in their entirety to be a part of the subject matter expert workgroups, who will be assisting in the development of the exam questions. Teachers who meet this criteria will be receiving invitations to participate in this group and will be compensated for their time. These exams will be hosted electronically and delivered during the pilot phase at no cost to the district. Teachers will have access to sample exam questions in an exam bank and will also have resources such as pacing guides, curriculum maps, and sample lessons created from the teacher teams (subject matter expert workgroups) who create the exams. These exams will be able to be given within the class period(s) and will not require additional scheduling.

Please reach out to Candi.Norwood@tn.gov with further questions.